



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
2181 Rayburn House Office Building ■ (202) 225-4527

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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State Education Leaders Endorse *No Child Left Behind*

The Education Leaders Council (ELC), a non-partisan group of reform-minded stated education officials, endorsed President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* reform plan. Excerpts from their letter of support, signed by ELC officials Linda Schrenko (Georgia state superintendent of schools), Wilbert Bryant (Virginia secretary of education), and Jim Nelson (Texas commissioner of education), are included below:

"We appreciate your effort to focus federal education policy on accountability for results in student achievement rather than compliance with federal regulations and programs. Washington must recognize the proper role of state, local, and school leaders to set priorities and decide how to achieve educational goals. H.R. 1 takes an important step in that direction by consolidating federal education programs."

"In exchange for this freedom and flexibility, state and local officials should be held accountable for delivering results for children. We strongly believe that meaningful accountability requires clear and measurable standards, and annual assessment of student learning at the state level. We further support the notion that on this basis, there should be rewards for success and consequences for failure."

"Allowing students in consistently failing schools to transfer after three years to a public or private school of their choice (or, alternatively to choose supplemental services) will be an important safety valve. It will make schools more accountable and reinforce the important message that public schools exist to serve children; the children do not serve the system."

Message of the Day

Americans support President Bush's innovative approach to improving the quality of our education system.

- ❑ *Momentum is steadily building behind the President's **No Child Left Behind** education reform bill.*
- ❑ *H.R. 1 is a bold plan that incorporates high standards, rigorous accountability measures, parental choice, and flexibility for our state and local school districts.*
- ❑ *The Bush plan puts students first. Failure cannot be ignored; schools must be held accountable.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- A recent Harris Interactive Poll found that 67 percent of Americans favor President Bush's education plan.
- On March 27, Charlie Cook reported in *CongressDaily/A.M.* that a recent Democrat poll showed that Americans preferred Republicans to Democrats on the education issue by seven points (45-38 percent).
- A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll conducted in January found that 60 percent of Americans say the public-school system is doing a poor or "only fair" job, and 54 percent of parents would prefer to send their child to a private school.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We must continue the work my father began. Education is the key to freedom and opportunity. We basically have one supplier, the public education system, and it has become a huge bureaucracy. This bureaucracy has to be challenged. Fairness demands that every child, not just the rich, has access to an education that will help them achieve their dreams." **Martin Luther King III, President, Southern Christian Leadership Council**